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EQUAL RIGHTS

Men and women shall
have Equal Rights
throughout the United
States and every place
subject to its jurisdiction

Amendment to the United States Constitution now before Congress.

January 15, 1937

NATIONAL WOMAN'S PARTY

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Equal Rights



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OBJECT OF THE WOMAN'S PARTY

To secure for women complete equality with men under the law and in all human relationships, and in particular to secure the adoption of the Equal Rights Amendment to the National Constitution and the Equal Rights Treaty.

THE LUCRETIA MOTT AMENDMENT

"Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction."

"Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

Introduced, Senate—By Senator Townsend, Del., Jan. 6, 1937
(Senate Joint Resolution No. 1.)

House—By Representative Ludlow, Ind., Jan. 5, 1937
(House Joint Resolution No. 1.)

Present Status—Senate—Before Judiciary Committee.
House—Before Judiciary Committee.

THE EQUAL RIGHTS TREATY

Article 1

"The contracting States agree that upon the ratification of this treaty men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the territory subject to their respective jurisdictions."

Signed—By the Governments of Cuba, Ecuador, Paraguay,
and Uruguay at Montevideo, December, 1933.

Greatest Obstacle

A CLOSED mind is the greatest obstacle proponents of the Equal Rights Amendment encounter in their effort to make it a part of the Constitution of the United States.

It is not that many of its enemies are against what it will accomplish. They are not! They have merely failed to give the idea the consideration that would not merely convert them to a belief in the Amendment, but would elicit from them the declaration their honesty would impel them to make, the fact that they needed no conversion after a careful study of facts.

The traditional prejudices of sex may be laid at the door of women as well as men, for they have been victims of the age-old propaganda placing them in an inferior classification. Many women still accept the stigma without questioning the facts and in all sincerity advocate "protective" laws, further complicating for members of their sex their activities in every field of endeavor.

Our Policy

WITH this issue of EQUAL RIGHTS, the initial number since the consolidation of EQUAL RIGHTS, official organ of the National Woman's Party and EQUAL RIGHTS, Independent Feminist Weekly, the magazine becomes a semi-monthly publication.

In keeping with the object of the National Woman's Party, its mission will be to crusade for complete equality for women with men under the law and in all human relationships. It will endeavor to keep its readers informed as to the status of women, their activities, and legislation, events and opinions affecting that status.

It will endeavor always to present to its readers dependable facts and the result of the best thought relating to those facts.

EQUAL RIGHTS can be depended upon to offer authoritative information and the most advanced thought dealing with the feminist movement.

It deserves and desires the support of women everywhere who believe in justice and freedom for their sex and who realize the national and international emergency now existing.

Its appeal is to those who understand the necessity for becoming a part of the movement to hold gains and insure progress. EQUAL RIGHTS, the semi-monthly, salutes you!

No Compromise With Right

WITH remarkable foresight the National Woman's Party years ago charted its course for complete equality of women with men and has never deviated from that course.

With no means of divining the influences that would be abroad in the world today and the increased dangers that would confront women in the United States, the National Woman's Party in the one proposed Equal Rights Amendment met every condition that has arisen and offered a remedy by establishing a principle that even its opponents admit is right.

Why then compromise with right? The Constitution of the United States is the fundamental law of the land and should enunciate only such principles as are fundamentally sound. It is the guide not only for the present but the future and to append to it any amendment that is basically unsound is both illogical and stupid.

It is so much more difficult to right a wrong than to avoid one. If women need protection in industry or elsewhere, why not restrict those doing the wrong rather than employ the most absurd expedient and restrict the victims. One would not think of doing away with the baby simply because its milk disagrees with it. One would rather do something about the milk.

Incorrect thinking in an emergency, and failing to measure any contemplated fundamental change in the Constitution by a yardstick that will fit both the present and the future, shows a lack of reasoning that is wholly inexcusable. Business, we must understand, is not regulated by philanthropists nor even by welfare enthusiasts. It is administered by heads—not hearts.

The proposed Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution guaranteeing to women that "men and women shall have equal rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction", is the most thoroughly protective piece of legislation imaginable. It is their definite guarantee that there will be no discriminations merely on account of sex. Without it they are definitely hobbled, then told they may enter the race with their male competitors, whom the law leaves free and unrestricted.

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SLT Nov 19 1937

Lobbyists Demand Prompt Passage of Amendment

Headquarters of the National Woman's Party was teeming with activity the opening week of the Seventy-fifth Congress as members from the various States presented in person their demands for the prompt passage of the Equal Rights Amendment.

At the opening of Congress, the Equal Rights Amendment: "Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction," was introduced in the House of Representatives as House Joint Resolution No. 1, by Representative Louis Ludlow, of Indiana, and in the Senate as Senate Joint Resolution No. 1 by Senator John E. Townsend, of Delaware. The resolutions were referred to the Judiciary Committees of Senate and House.

From New York, Delaware, Connecticut, Virginia, New Jersey, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Arkansas, South Carolina, Florida and other States women came to call on Judiciary committee members and Representatives from their own States to make their demand for immediate action.

As evidence that this step of the campaign is being earnestly received it may be cited that the chairman of the House judiciary committee, Representative Hatton W. Summers, of Texas, told me he "would not oppose the consideration of the House resolution."

The ranking majority member of the House judiciary committee, Representative Andrew J. Montague, of Virginia, has declared that in his opinion it is only fair and just that the Equal Rights Amendment be promptly reported out of committee, and that he "would so vote in order that the matter be submitted to the Congress for consideration."

The ranking minority member of the House judiciary committee, Representative U. S. Guyer, of Kansas, has said "I am willing and ready to vote to report the Equal Rights Amendment out of committee that the Congress and the country may have an opportunity to consider it."

The membership of the Judiciary committees has not yet been completed, but in the next issue we shall give the full list of committee members. It is here our immediate work lies.

Foremost among those who took part in the lobbying of the leaders and members of Congress were workers of suffrage days, including Abby Scott Baker, Betty Gram Swing, Elsie Hill, Helena Hill Weed, Grace Hoffman White, Jane Norman Smith, Mrs. P. J. Simmen, Mrs. Robert Adamson, Dora Ogle, Martha Souder, Adelaide Stedman, Helen Hunt West, and myself.

The Pennsylvania delegation to the Capitol was headed by Mrs. Ellis Schnabel, chairman Philadelphia branch, National Woman's Party, and included Mrs. Mary Mac-Crea Thompson, member of Pennsylvania congressional committee, Upper Darby, Delaware County; Miss Josephine Lippi, vice-chairman Philadelphia branch, and Miss Ruth Gill Williams, member Philadelphia branch.

CONGRESS FAVORABLE

In reporting on their two days of intensive lobbying, Mrs. Schnabel said, "My general feeling this year is that Congressmen are favorable to the Equal Rights Amendment. Our visits to the Pennsylvania delegation, which is one of the largest in Congress, proved that sentiment in favor of Equality has changed greatly since the last session. For instance, several members of our delegation in Congress have answered 'you can count on me.'"

A representative from the northeastern section of Pennsylvania declared "Absolutely, I am for equality measures." A new representative, in Washington less

By Anita Pollitzer

than a week, commented on the fact that this visit asking for equality was the first unselfish request that he had received and he approved the thought back of the campaign. These visits followed letters to Pennsylvania representatives sent by Lois Buerzli, congressional chairman for Pennsylvania branch.

Jane Norman Smith, speaking for the New York delegation, said, "We have more definite promises for the support of the Amendment from members of the New York delegation than we have ever had."

Clara Snell Wolfe, of Columbus, Ohio, organization chairman, who came to Washington for the opening of Congress, said: "Before election all candidates of both parties were seen or written to by our Ohio members. Now we are reminding the successful candidates of their expressed interest."

From Delaware, the State which is always first in its Equal Rights commitments, because it is the State of Florence Bayard Hilles, recently retired national chairman of the National Woman's Party, and beloved leader of the Equal Rights movement, came an influential delegation consisting of Marguerite Bodziak, of Wilmington, Democratic National Committeewoman for Delaware; Miss Marie T. Lockwood of Middletown, secretary of the State Board of Examiners for Registration of Nurses and one of the two Senatorial District representatives on the Democratic State Central Committee, and Mrs. Marion L. Kenney, of Marshallton, former State chairman. At the close of their work they reported that the Delaware Congressional delegation was unequivocally in favor of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Arkansas was represented by Mrs. Leonore Spencer, of Hot Springs, State legislative chairman of the Arkansas branch, and Mrs. John A. Gosnell, who worked indefatigably with members of the Arkansas delegation.

From Virginia came Mrs. E. C. Bristow, Mrs. N. C. Lippy, Mrs. Nellie B. Wev, of Richmond, to see members of their congressional delegation.

Although optimistic because of the general understanding of representatives, members of the National Woman's Party realized from their talks with congressmen that an emergency exists. There is no time for delay because of the menace of bills grouping women with children. This vanguard of active workers will send others to sound a constant note of warning against such measures and to point out the arguments for the Equal Rights Amendment.

LOGICAL SEQUENCE.

In answer to the many letters arriving at National headquarters asking for information on the Equal Rights Amendment we suggest that members publicize the following points:

For almost a century women working for the liberation of women have been striving for political, civil and economic rights for women.

The Equal Rights Amendment is a logical and necessary sequence to the suffrage amendment.

Women's demand for equality in industry is an integral part of the Equal Rights program and of the extension of democracy in our day.

The Equal Rights Amendment will make it unconstitutional to discriminate against women. Following adoption of the amendment each of the forty-eight States would still set its own standard in all laws, but neither men nor women could be legislated against as at present.

Even many traditional States righters at last admit that a constitutional amendment is really the most democratic manner in which to settle the issue once and for all of Equal Rights versus Discrimination.

Beware of "Women's Charter"

DECISIVE action should be taken at once by national and international Feminist organizations to expose the disingenuous nature of the so-called "Woman's Charter." This document purports to be a sort of Magna Charta for women, but in reality is precisely the opposite.

The "Charter" is obviously designed, first, to pave the way, in the United States, for "protective" labor legislation for women only; and, second, to serve as an instrument to defeat the Equal Rights Treaty in both hemispheres. While the good intentions of the framers of the "Women's Charter" may not be questioned, their mode of procedure is, to say the least, dubious. Not one word appears in the entire document specifically indicating that the purpose of the "Charter" is to shackle women permanently with special sex-linked labor laws; yet any informed and discriminating person must realize that such is its objective. Because of this devious approach Feminists should immediately inform all organizations of women that they can reach, of the true object of the "Charter". It would be nothing short of a calamity to have organizations that oppose "protective" legislation for women only, endorse the Charter simply because they did not understand its significance. Experienced Feminists will, of course, immediately recognize the hooks beneath the bait, but inexperienced Feminists may easily be taken in by the Charter's tempting and ambiguous phraseology. "Full political and civil rights", "full opportunity for education", "full opportunity for employment" and "compensation without discrimination because of sex", sounds like the millenium, but then comes the joker: "Where special exploitation of women exists . . . conditions shall be corrected through labor legislation, which the world's experience shows to be necessary!"

It would, perhaps, not be polite to laugh, so we cough, discreetly, behind our hand. In the opinion of the framers of the "Charter" the "world's experience" shows "protective" labor legislation for women only, to be necessary. They do not exactly wish to say so, in plain words, for they fear that large numbers of working women are so deluded as to prefer Equal Rights to "protection", and they do not wish to arouse opposition to the "Charter".

The "primer" prepared by a sub-committee of the Joint Conference Group in the United States for the Women's Charter, says: "Women recognize, however, that *equality is not enough*, and that higher standards of living and greater security are attainable for all. The Women's Charter, therefore, is intended to formulate in this inclusive sense 'the social and economic objectives of women, for women and for society as a whole', as the preamble to the Charter states, adding that 'in promoting them

FALSE BECAUSE IT PRETENDS
TO ESPOUSE EQUALITY,
THEN DENIES IT

By Edith Houghton Hooker

PROPOSED WOMEN'S CHARTER

So-called Women's Charter, advocating in the first paragraph *equality* and in the second *restriction*; conferring rights with one one hand and taking them away with the other; promising in one paragraph full freedom to women and guaranteeing in another to shackle them; unique among charters in that it takes away rights.

The text of the Charter follows:

Women shall have full political and civil rights; full opportunity for education; full opportunity for employment according to their individual abilities, with safeguards against physically harmful conditions of employment and economic exploitation; they shall receive compensation, without discrimination because of sex. They shall be assured security of livelihood, including the safeguarding of motherhood. The provisions necessary for the establishment of these standards shall be guaranteed by Government, which shall insure also the right of united action toward the attainment of these aims.

Where special exploitation of women workers exists, such as low wages which provide less than the living standards attainable, unhealthful working conditions, or long hours of work which result in physical exhaustion and denial of the right to leisure, such conditions shall be corrected through social and labor legislation, which the world's experience shows to be necessary.

same work. The "world's experience" has never included Equal Rights so how can the framers of the Charter know that "equality is not enough?" In any event it is all that Feminists ask and, according to informed labor women, is precisely what is needed to insure "full opportunity for employment" and equal pay for equal work.

The difficulty is that the framers of the "Charter" are still imbued with the idea that women must be stepping stones for men and that the sob attached to motherhood is the only means available to circumvent the Constitution.

All practical working women, both in the professions and in industry, know that their most serious handicap in earning a decent living, and getting on up in the world, is their sex. Sex is the root of all evil, so far as opportunities and pay for women are concerned. If women could once get their employers and competitors to forget their sex, they might, on a basis of ability, win equal rewards with men. But this the "protectionists" will not permit. Sex, like a sore thumb, protrudes from all their plans. It protrudes from the "Charter" and makes the demand for "compensation without discrimination because of sex", an anomaly. Who will pay a semi-invalid the wages of an able-bodied person? No one, who can stay in business. Who will give wards of the State full political and civil rights, and all the rest of it? No one, in his senses. The question, is

Are women the biological equals of men? The "Charter" indicates the negative, on a basis of the "world's experience". Having already successfully challenged the same experience in connection with the "female mind", we accept the challenge anent the female body. Womanhood is not tantamount to a disease; a woman can work as well as a man and equally assiduously. All that a woman needs in order to compete successfully with men for distinctions and compensation is Equal Rights. More than that no self-respecting woman, or man, would accept, and if either one reached for it she or he would be quickly disillusioned.

The "Charter" is false for it pretends to espouse equality and then denies it. The many organizations that oppose "protective" legislation for woman only should speedily join hands to oppose the "Woman's Charter", and should be prepared to defeat the well-meant but archaic designs of its framers. Those who dare to state that "equality is not enough" either disbelieve in the Constitution or disbelieve in women. In either case they are dangerous. Those who have framed the "Women's Charter", unwittingly, we trust, are "framing" women.

for women it is hoped hereby to bring nearer the time of their establishment for all."

Equality is not enough, forsooth! Even when a "woman's wage" is only half that of a man's for the

Philadelphian Writes Mrs. Roosevelt

THE following letter to Mrs. Roosevelt came spontaneously from the pen of Ruth G. Williams of Philadelphia upon reading Mrs. Roosevelt's column "My Day", published December 31, 1936, in which Mrs. Roosevelt made reference to the stand of the National Woman's Party.

A member of the National Woman's Party and familiar with its stand for equality as the best protection to be afforded women, Miss Williams in her letter endeavors to make clear to Mrs. Roosevelt the fact that the Woman's Party goes the so-called "protectionists" one better in working for the protection of women.

Because of the earnestness of the writer in defending the principle of equality and because of the sincerity in her effort to present to Mrs. Roosevelt the National Woman's Party viewpoint, the letter is of particular interest. Replying, as it does to a public statement made by Mrs. Roosevelt in her capacity as a columnist, rather than as an individual, it is fitting that the letter of Miss Williams which has just come into the hands of EQUAL RIGHTS, also be given to the public.

The letter follows:

TEXT OF LETTER

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt,
The White House,
Washington, D. C.

January 3, 1937.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

In your column of December 31, 1936, you referred to the "stand of the National Woman's Party. You gave the impression that the stand of this organization is against "protection" of women in industry.

Of course, the stand of the National Woman's Party is neither pro nor con on the subject of labor legislation or in fact any legislation. This stand has been publicly announced time and time again over a period of many years. The party stands for EQUALITY and the only reason we protest against anything is because that principle is violated. That is why we oppose so-called "protective" legislation for women ONLY—laws which restrict women workers but not their male competitors.

Of course, the whole reasoning of President Roosevelt's administration is that business firms who pay decent wages cannot compete with chiselers and therefore the same terms must apply to all employers. That is the principle of the NRA and all other such legislation.

And I agree that this principle is sound. So sound that it applies to workers as well as employers. One group of workers cannot compete with another group of workers who are permitted by law to offer longer hours for less money.

It is astounding to hear President Roosevelt expound this principle and then to know that he does not follow through on his reasoning to the point of seeing the position in which women are placed when labor legislation restricts women but not their male competitors.

Any labor legislation for one sex only creates great suffering and distress for those workers restricted by the laws.

Surely you must see this point. Surely you must admit that only when all competitors are free to offer the same proposition to an employer can anything like fairness and happiness be possible. Equal laws governing all workers in a given field is the only answer. And that is what the National Woman's Party has argued for years.

It seems particularly appalling to me that women like yourself and Frances Perkins should urge laws which place women in a class with children. You seem to enjoy doing as you please. I can see no difference in a woman working long hours or at night for pay and you

and Miss Perkins dashing around the country making speeches, either for pay or not.

If women cabinet officers were restricted by laws not applying to men, Secretary Perkins would not have the job. And if one-sex legislation continues to be passed, there will be fewer and fewer women who will be permitted to earn a living legally.

The National Woman's Party is 100 per cent right in its stand for equality. Had there not been women with that vision a hundred years ago, you would not be enjoying the benefits you do today. The least you can do today to repay them is to fight for equality between men and women so that the women of the future will enjoy the benefits such equality will naturally bring.

The members of the National Woman's Party are simply fighting for a principle they know to be sound. So sound that every member is willing to apply it to her own life. That is more than can be said for the men and women who back "protective" legislation for women alone. And that is the acid test—would you be willing to abide by such restrictions yourself?

When Mr. William Green of the American Federation of Labor said last summer that he would approve minimum wages for women but not for men because men are not ready to surrender themselves to government and that wage-fixing is dictatorship, every woman who has believed in minimum wages for women only should have awakened with a start. Dictatorship for men—a guardian angel for women. That doesn't make sense and Mr. Green knows it.

I sincerely urge you to open your mind to the stand of the National Woman's Party. You are certain to conclude that it is the only possible stand for women who have self-respect and sex-respect. And I believe that you are a great enough person to reverse your opinion and help us pass the Equal Rights Amendment. Needless to say your support would be most valuable.

(Signed) RUTH G. WILLIAMS.

Mary Beard Amazed at Use of Her Name

According to Dorothy Dunbar Bromley, New York *World-Telegram* columnist, at least one of the women whose names appeared as sponsors of the proposed "Women's Charter," repudiates any connection with the draft of the document as it is offered in its completed form.

Replying to a previous statement of the columnist that she would "leave it to Mrs. Mary Beard, who was down as one of the charter's sponsors, to persuade her of its wisdom, if she could," Mrs. Beard is quoted saying:

"My surprise was surely greater than yours when I read the statements in the press about the Charter of Rights for women. I was, in fact, amazed to see in print the draft which I thought was far from ready for publication. Nor did I know that no member of the National Woman's Party had been consulted."

Mrs. Bromley further states that the only conclusion to be drawn is that Miss Elizabeth Christman and the group backing the charter made too free a use of her name, adding that they should have known that "America's most distinguished historian, who has said all along that she belongs to 'neither camp or faction to the exclusion of the other,' is not a person who changes her opinions overnight."

Since it has come to light that one of the women credited with sponsorship of the "Women's Charter" washes her hands of it, it would be interesting to know how many of the remaining women whose names and organizations were credited with sponsorship are just as "amazed."

We Reach Another Milestone

Backward and Forward Glances by Mrs. Florence Bayard Hilles, retiring chairman of the National Woman's Party and Mrs. Stephen Pell, who takes up the work relinquished by Mrs. Hilles.

Mrs. Hilles

TO work with and for the National Woman's Party has been my lot for some twenty-three years, which work means constant effort of ways and means of legislation both State and national, of observing when and where one can direct activities both for and against legislation affecting the welfare or advancement of women, and sticking closely and loyally to the path directed by the National Council, and a steady determination that in the cause for the freedom of women, "failure is impossible."

Along with it all goes comradeship, and working with a group that admits of no indirect or devious methods, but the one clear path which experience has taught, alone leads to success.

In retrospect I find the work has brought me into a broader way of thought and intelligent comprehension of daily duties and affairs. I rejoice in my experience! If greater exertion to win the goal be necessary, I welcome it, and in the future as in the past will strive to do my part, believing that

"Life, strife—these two are one.

Naught can ye win but by faith and daring.

On, on—that ye have done

But for the work of today preparing.

Firm in reliance, laugh at defiance.

(Laugh in hope, for sure is the end.)

March, march—many as one,

Shoulder to shoulder and friend to friend."

Mrs. Pell

THE National Woman's Party stands for Equal Rights for men and women. The rights of women must be acknowledged: Morally, civilly and socially. Woman is not man's inferior or superior, but she shares in common with him the qualities of honesty, humanity, compassion, justice and intelligence, which are not affected by sex.

CIVILLY, she is entitled to equality before the law. At present there are approximately a thousand laws discriminating against women in the United States. The best way to correct this, the National Woman's Party believes, is an Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution, the effect of which will be to give women equal guardianship of their children, equal property rights, rights to make contracts, equal pay for equal work, in fact Equal Rights before the law.

SOCIALLY, Equal Rights acknowledged insure social order. Any opposition to Equal Rights is anti-social. Inequalities unbalance the social order. The brotherhood of man does not exclude women. These are not snap phrases. This is the TRUTH.

Mrs. Pell, New National Chairman, Honored

SENATORS and Representatives in Congress, high officials of the Government and department clerks, members of the diplomatic corps, and other men and women without regard to party, place or power, were present to the number of more than 300 at the reception given last Friday by the National Woman's Party in honor of Mrs. Stephen Pell of New York, newly elected national chairman.

As Miss Sarah Thompson, daughter of Col. and Mrs. Robert M. Thompson, Mrs. Pell made many friends in Washington before her marriage, and since then, and throughout her connection with the Federal suffrage movement, she has divided her time between the capital and her homes in New York City and Ticonderoga. Old and new friends alike therefore turned out to welcome her in her official capacity as national chairman of the organization with which she has long been associated in her support of the suffrage amendment and later of the Equal Rights Amendment reintroduced in this Congress as Joint Resolution No. 1 by Senator Townsend of Delaware and Representative Louis Ludlow of Indiana.

Representative Nan Wood Honeyman, newly elected member of Congress from Portland, Oregon, who was born at West Point and educated in New York City, developing there an enduring friendship with President and Mrs. Roosevelt, held an impromptu reception of her own in the wide corridor after going "down the line."

And in an adjoining room Edith Maxwell, the Wise, Va., mountain school teacher, charged with the "slipper murder" of her father, an appeal from the verdict in which case is now pending, was the center of a ever-changing and always-sympathetic group.

The Virginia branch of the National Woman's Party cooperated in Miss Maxwell's defense, and friends here and in Philadelphia and Baltimore are arranging benefit balls to raise money to defray the expenses of the preparation and filing of her appeal. Here for the ball to be held January 15, at the Washington Hotel, Miss Maxwell met last Friday for the first time many of the members and friends of the organization who have been active in her behalf.

Among the indignantly sympathetic women who were impressed anew with the personality of the sad-faced, slender girl, whose quiet dignity and poise under painfully trying circumstances were the subject of favorable comment by all, were Mrs. Charles McNary, wife of Senator McNary, and Mrs. Raymond Gram Swing of New York.

Mrs. Pell was assisted in receiving by Mrs. Harvey Wiley, past national chairman and present secretary, and Dr. Miriam Oatman and Mrs. Nina E. Allender, all of Washington; Mrs. Clarence M. Smith, Mrs. Robert Adamson and Mrs. John Jay White, of New York, and Miss Madeline Doty, recently arrived from Geneva, Switzerland, who was a week-end guest of Alva S. Belmont House.

Assisting at the tea table were Mrs. Avery Coonley, Mrs. Anne Archbold, Mrs. Burnita Shelton Matthews, and Mrs. Richard Wainwright, widow of Admiral Wainwright.

Among those present, many of whom came early and remained late for a quiet word and cup of tea with Mrs. Pell, were Senators Capper of Kansas, Pepper of Florida, and Hughes of Delaware, Mrs. Warren Austin, wife of

Senator Austin of Vermont; Mrs. Augustine Lonergan, wife of Senator Lonergan of Connecticut; Mrs. Morris Sheppard, wife of Senator Sheppard of Texas; Mrs. Charles O. Andrews, wife of Senator Andrews of Florida; Mrs. Carroll Miller, sister of Senator Guffey; Miss Townsend and Miss Hatch, daughters of Senators Townsend of Delaware and Hatch of New Mexico; the secretary of the Legation of Honduras and Mrs. Julian R. Caceres; Mrs. Stanley Reed, wife of the Solicitor General; Lieutenant Commander and Mrs. Leland D. Webb; Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Simmens of Buffalo; Mrs. Joseph Winterbottom, Chicago; Mr. and Mrs. Harry Frantz; Mrs. Harold Hinton; Mrs. Higginson Rogers; Miss Ellen La Motte; Mrs. J. Fred Essary; and Miss Edmonia Nolley of the cast of "The Children's Hour."

Following the reception there was an informal dinner in the Coach House Tea Room of the Party, after which Mrs. Pell presided over a meeting of the National Council attended by Mrs. Robert Adamson, New Jersey; Nina Allender, Washington, D. C.; Edwina Avery, New York; Edith Houghton Hooker, Maryland; Rebekah Greathouse, Washington, D. C.; Burnita Shelton Matthews, Mississippi; Dora G. Ogle, Maryland; Betty Gram Swing, New York; Mrs. Norman Underwood, District of Columbia; Mrs. John Jay White, New York; Anita Pollitzer, South Carolina; Clara Snell Wolfe, Ohio.

Foremost among the matters discussed was the campaign for the National Woman's Party's immediate objective, passage by the present session of Congress of the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

Mrs. Pell spent the week end as the guest of her son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Robert T. Pell, at their home in Thirty-third street, returning to New York on Monday.

Dona Maria Perez de Almirotty Elected Puerto Rican Senator

DONA MARIA PEREZ DE ALMIROTY, distinguished Puerto Rican Feminist, was elected by the Liberty Party of Puerto Rico to the Insular Senate on a platform demanding independence for the island.

Independence in the minds of Liberal Party leaders and rank and file does not imply any antagonism to the United States, but they believe that it represents, on the contrary, the solution most satisfactory to both countries. According to the Liberals, Puerto Rico as a colony is handicapped by inability to make its own tariff regulations and commercial treaties, and the United States is handicapped by having to expend large sums on the island in the effort to make up for the economic depression largely as a result of the colonial status. Independence with reciprocal trade agreements, they say, should benefit both, basing their opinions on reports of many experts in both Puerto Rico and the United States. The question is of great immediate interest, since Luis Muñoz Marín, Puerto Rican statesman and one of the staunchest and best-known Latin-American defenders of the program of Equal Rights, is at present in Washington working for a satisfactory Independence Bill to be introduced in the present Congress.

Dña Maria Pérez de Almirotty is a vice-president of the Liberal Party, a leader in civic betterment associations, and an energetic campaigner. She attended the University of Puerto Rico and did graduate work at Harvard.

The campaign for Puerto Rican independence is of especial interest to Feminists in the United States, since Muñoz Marín and other insular political leaders have pledged themselves to see that the Republic of Puerto Rico be one spot where Equal Rights shall prevail.

Lagniappe

(Editor's Note: In Old New Orleans in the Vieux Carre when the baker slips into the bag of one dozen cookies the additional thirteenth, he says "lagniappe".)

In my opinion the appearance of the proposed "Women's Charter" at this time is a desperate and not too ethical attempt on the part of advocates of so-called "protection" for women, to defeat passage by the present Congress of the Equal Rights Amendment, which they believe to be imminent, and to block the Equal Rights Treaty which has gained much ground in Geneva.—MARGUERITE BODZIAK, Democratic National Committeewoman for Delaware.

The proposed "Women's Charter" is a belated attempt to revive the 'horse and buggy era' concept of the position of women in a society run by men. It echoes and re-echoes the anti-suffrage psychology familiar to campaigners for equal suffrage. It advocates one law for men and another law for women in a world where men and women live and work side by side.—ELSIE HILL.

"We warn women's organizations of a network spreading its meshes over the whole world, which is going out from the International Labor Office. Its purpose is to hold women workers in a class by themselves and place special restrictions upon their labor. As a part of this attack upon the rights of women, the Women's Charter of Inequality has been launched."—JANE NORMAN SMITH, New York, chairman of the Committee on Equal Economic Opportunity, National Woman's Party.

"The so-called 'women's charter', which is proposed by certain women's organizations and which emanates from Washington, is a declaration of restrictions on the rights of women as human beings and as such would imperil their economic security."—MRS. STEPHEN PELL, National Chairman, National Woman's Party.

"I think the so-called Charter of Rights for women which Miss Elizabeth Christman, of the Women's Trade Union League and twenty-five other women leaders have tied up in bright tinsel paper and offered our sex as a New Year's gift ought to be scrutinized before it is accepted. I am shocked, to tell the truth, that the authors of the charter should appear so oblivious of the fact that men as well as women workers suffer from 'physically harmful conditions of employment and economic exploitation'. I am shocked because not so long ago several leading protectionists assured me that they were strongly in favor of minimum wage and hour legislation for men as well as women if the same could be secured under the Constitution. For the time being they appear to have forgotten their larger social aim."—DOROTHY DUNBAR BROMLEY, in *World-Telegram*.

Mary Ingham Passes

MARY HALL INGHAM, long a member of the Advisory Board of the National Woman's Party and devoted worker for Woman Suffrage, died January 1 in Bryn Mawr, Pa., four days after her seventieth birthday. Miss Ingham was arrested three times during the suffrage campaign, once for picketing and twice for participating in other demonstrations. Her work for women began during her days at Bryn Mawr College, of which she was a graduate, and extended throughout her lifetime. She was a daughter of William Ingham and granddaughter of Samuel D. Ingham, Secretary of the Treasury under Andrew Jackson.

Lest We Forget

BECAUSE people are prone to forget—and because once a principle is established it is important that those who follow do not retrograde, **EQUAL RIGHTS** reproduces herewith a copy of a letter written in 1913 by Samuel Gompers, then president of the American Federation of Labor, to Russell Malcolm MacLennan, in which he states the position of the American labor movement on equality.

The letter was news then because it definitely outlined the position of labor on woman suffrage. It is news now—in 1937—because it states the stand of the same organization on the fundamental principle of equality. American labor has never repudiated that stand.

The following letter is self explanatory and in it Samuel Gompers, although only asked for his approval of the principle of woman suffrage, went all the way and merely included suffrage in his Federation's broader conception of equality:

Washington, D. C., February 1, 1913.

Mr. Russell Malcolm MacLennan,
Secretary Men's Committee,
Joint Inaugural Procession Committee,
1420 R Street, N. W., Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of January 29th is received and contents noted. You say that you are preparing to invite the different unions of the District of Columbia to participate in the woman's suffrage parade, and you request a letter from me approving the principle of woman's suffrage. Replying briefly, let me say:

The American labor movement stands committed for equality of opportunity, for equal pay for equal work, whether performed by men or women. It also stands for equal rights before the law, and that implies equal suffrage.

The American Federation of Labor has not only repeatedly declared in favor of woman's suffrage, but it is now including it in its economic demands, as set forth in the enclosed leaflet, which is printed in large quantities kept in stock at headquarters, many thousands of them being distributed over the country.

Very truly yours,

SAM. GOMPERS,
President,

The American Federation of Labor.

Susan B. Anthony Day

IN commemoration of the birthday anniversary of Susan B. Anthony and in order that every American shall know her part in the fight for freedom of women just as it now knows the part George Washington played in the struggle of the Colonies for independence, the Susan B. Anthony Committee, of which Mrs. Robert Adamson is chairman, is again laying its plans for suitable observance of February 15.

National Woman's Party State chairmen are urged to contact State superintendents of public instruction and other educational authorities and request that there be some observance of the day.

Governors of States should be called upon to proclaim February 15 Susan B. Anthony Day. Women's organizations could well devote a program to a discussion of Susan B. Anthony and her work, while awards could be offered school children for the best essays on the subject of the famous pioneer feminist who dared to stand for equal rights between women and men.

Radio broadcasts should carry the colorful personality

of the great general of women into American homes where she must be known.

The Susan B. Anthony stamp issued during the past year by the Post Office Department was a tribute to Miss Anthony, credited to the work of the Susan B. Anthony Committee and it is hoped not only that this stamp may be made permanent, but that eventually February 15 will be officially set aside as Susan B. Anthony Day just as February 22 is set aside in honor of the country's first President, George Washington.

Women on Every News Front.

By Jane Morey

Dr. Alice Evelyn Wilson, of the Geological Survey of Canada, was one of nineteen geologists elected as fellows of the Geological Society of America at its forty-ninth annual convention held in Cincinnati in December

New Indian Constitution

Under India's new constitution, which comes into effect this year, the vote will be given to the wives of all men qualified to vote, and to all literate women. The Indian women have had the right to vote on the same terms as the men, but so few of them hold property in their own names, that less than a million women have been able to claim that right. Indian women now are in various municipal, district and legislative councils, practice medicine and law, and have become teachers, nurses and stenographers.

Successful Conductor

Nadia Boulanger, of Paris, recently conducted a concert in Queen's Hall, London. Mlle. Boulanger is widely known as a professor of composition, many of her pupils being favorably known in musical circles. She has also won fame for her revival of old compositions. She seeks the old pieces, which might be called the "primitives" of music, and presents them in her concerts. Nadia Boulanger is considered one of the most interesting figures in European music, and her remarkable gifts, her disdain of the tricks of the virtuoso conductor, are displayed at their best in the type of program she selects.

Woman Sets Record

Maryse Bastie, French aviatrix, set a new, unofficial, speed record from Dakar, Senegal, to Natal, Brazil. Her time was twelve hours seven minutes. The official record for the South Atlantic flight is held by Jean Batten, of New Zealand, with a record of thirteen hours fifteen minutes.

Should Be Heard

Switzerland's champion yodler. *Transradio Press* service informs us, is a woman. She is Frau Fry, whose admirers claim she can be heard thirteen miles away whenever she climbs atop her favorite mountains and performs.

FOR INAUGURATION DAY MAKE ALVA BELMONT HOUSE NATIONAL WOMAN'S PARTY

144 B Street Northeast

YOUR HEADQUARTERS

BUFFET LUNCHEON—11 A. M. to 5 P. M.

FIFTY CENTS

DINNER—5 to 9 P. M.

SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS